

January 13, 2020 the regular Town Board meeting as well as the Organizational meeting was held beginning at 7:00 p.m. with Councilman Greenough and Highway Superintendent Hobus absent. Sup. Ferguson led the pledge to the flag. The Oaths' of Office were done by each newly elected official sworn in by Justice Jared Eggleston.

A motion to accept the previous month's minutes with one correction was made by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Raymond and all were in favor. A motion to pay the audited bills was made by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Barber and all were in favor.

The Organizational meeting Resolutions are as follows:

Resolution #1-2020 titled Policies

RESOLUTION #1-2020

January 13, 2020

Title: Policies

Be it RESOLVED that the 2020 Town Board of the Town of Dresden accepts and adopts all fiscal and procedural policies in effect at the end of 2020 until and unless modified by the board.

put forth by a motion by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Raymond and all were in favor.

Resolution #2-2020 titled Salaries

RESOLUTION #2-2020

January 13, 2020

Title: Salaries

Be it RESOLVED that the following schedule of salaries and compensation for employees of the Town of Dresden for the year 2020 is adopted;

Supervisor.....	\$14,750.00/yr
Town Councilman (4).....	\$3,200.00/yr
Town Clerk.....	\$18,250.00/yr
Highway Superintendent.....	\$53,500.00/yr
Town Justice (2).....	\$6,250.00/yr
Assessor.....	\$16,200.00/yr
Bookkeeper/Supervisor's Secretary.....	\$720.00/yr
Tax Collector.....	\$5,000.00/yr
Deputy Highway Superintendent.....	\$750.00/yr
Budget Officer.....	\$12,400.00/yr
Registrar of Vital Statistics.....	\$700.00/yr
Dog Control Officer.....	\$2,200.00/yr
Historian.....	\$1000.00/yr
Sewer Dist. #1 Operator.....	\$215.00/wk., \$19.00/hr other
Justice Court Clerk.....	\$17.00/hr
Building Custodian.....	\$15.00/hr
Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector.....	\$14.00/hr as authorized by Town Board
Highway workers paid as per contract with the Teamsters Union	
Reimbursement for authorized travel on Town business outside of town: \$0.45/mile. Meals out of the County on Town Business: \$9.00 for Breakfast, \$15.00 for Lunch, \$23.00 for Dinner.	
Maximum use of town credit/debit cards, for any single purpose, to be set at \$300 without prior notification and approval from either the Budget Officer or member of the Budget Committee.	

put forth by a motion by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Raymond and all were in favor.

Resolution #3-2020 titled Appointments

RESOLUTION #3-2020

January 13, 2020

Title: Appointments

Be it RESOLVED that the following appointments to office or position are adopted for 2020;

- Deputy Supervisor.....Councilman John Barber
- Deputy Town Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector.....Councilman Allen Wilbur
- Deputy Highway Superintendent.....James Brown
- Director of Finance/Budget Officer.....Supervisor Paul Ferguson
- Tax Collector.....Town Clerk Marcinda Wilbur
- Registrar of Vital Statistics.....Town Clerk Marcinda Wilbur
- Supervisor Secretary.....Supervisor Paul Ferguson
- Dog/Animal Control Officer.....Melissa Brown
- Justice Court Clerk.....Gail Smith
- Historian.....Cathy Huntington
- Assessor.....June Maniacek
- Town Attorney.....Matt Fuller
(With the firm of Meyer & Fuller)
- Official Bank.....Community Bank
- Official Paper.....Whitehall Times

put forth by a motion by Coun. Barber and was seconded by Coun. Wilbur and all were in favor.

Resolution #4-2020 titled Highway Agreement/Committees

RESOLUTION #4-2020

January 13, 2020

Title: Highway/Committees Agreement

Be it RESOLVED that the agreement with the Highway Superintendent of the Town of Dresden for the maintenance and improvement of the town highway system for 2020 is approved.

TOWN BOARD COMMITTEES FOR 2020

- Buildings and Grounds.....Raymond, Wilbur
- Budget..... Barber, Ferguson, Greenough
- Cemeteries..... Raymond, Wilbur
- Highway.....Barber, Greenough
- Insurance.....Barber, Ferguson
- Legal.....Barber, Ferguson
- Open Space.....Barber, Wilbur
- Recreation.....Barber, Raymond
- Sewer District.....Greenough, Raymond
- Town Justice Review.....Greenough, Wilbur
- Payroll.....Greenough, Barber

put forth by a motion by Coun. Raymond and was seconded by Coun. Barber and all were in favor.

Resolution #5-2020 titled **Correction of Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution** was put forth by a motion by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Raymond and all were in favor.

Old Business: There hasn't been anything new from either SLIC or Spectrum. It is possible to go to the SLIC website online and put in an address to see if it will be in the coverage area.

New Business: Resolution #23-2019 titled **Budget Transfer, Sewer #2, General and Highway** makes the year end budget amendments with a zero impact was put forth by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Barber and all were in favor. A copy of the Board of Assessment Review was given to the board and there was a correction for the contact number for newly appointed member Walter Tupper. Financials were given to the board and are on file in the Clerk's office. Payment was received from Vermont for the use of Chubb's dock this past summer for the weed program and put into the general fund. There was no news on whether Vermont will be using the property for this season. The 2014 AUD has been submitted electronically and there has still been no response at the time of this meeting. Councilman Wilbur brought to the board's attention that there was a 5% increase in the 2020 Budget as opposed to the .6755%. The summary sheet at the beginning of the budget shows the new proposed budget compared to the 2019 budget amount and incorrectly states a .6755% difference when it is actually 3.3% as well as an increase due to Workman's Comprehension Assessment passed along from the County in the amount of \$8,755. This creates an increase for the Town of 5%, thus making us go over the tax cap for the year. A Town Law is necessary when we went over the tax cap. There has to be a fund established for the overage to be placed in. It is by Coun. Wilbur's recommendation that the town attorney be in attendance at the next meeting to discuss how to go about creating this fund and what to do since we went over the tax cap.

Highway Superintendent's Report: There was no report due to the fact that Superintendent Hobus was absent.

Public Comment: Anda Stipins-Gang inquired to Sup. Ferguson and the board about the open government procedure of the 3 FOIL requests made by her to the town that have gone mostly unnoticed and she would like an explanation as to how to proceed from here. There was no explanation offered by neither Sup. Ferguson nor the board at this time. Justice Jack Eggleston addressed the board about the Court Clerk being temporarily absent and having a replacement to cover for her. He is requesting that the replacement being paid at the same rate as the current clerk since the replacement is knowledgeable in court proceedings. The State has steadily placed more and more responsibilities on the Justices and requires more and more training therefore creating more work for them to do. There was a full audit done recently and everything came back good. The Justices work tirelessly besides just the one night that court is held and according to the worksheet for the State Retirement Record of Activity form there is inadequate data to provide a good assessment for calculating the benefit received at retirement. He wishes there was some support for the work that gets done.

A comment was said about how the County can assess the amount for the Workman's Comprehension Assessment after the budget was passed. The town surpassed the tax cap of 2.5% so what are the repercussions. We may have to set the overage of taxes collected into a separate fund. We need to get the AUD's approved so we no longer have to hear or read about it and let's get them all done by the end of the year.

George Gang explained that the town isn't responsible for the Workman's Comp Assessment and we don't know what the amount is until the County arrives at that amount and divides it by the number of towns in the county. This year it was determined the Town of Dresden's portion was over \$8,000. The 3.3% budget amount can't be dealt with at this point. He asked as to the conflict of interest reported in the last issue of the newspaper, he would like to know what the conflict is and how it can be dealt with.

Bob Cucinello would like to suggest a way to show our appreciation for all the efforts put forth by Jack Eggleston.

Sup. Ferguson addressed the board and those in attendance that he feels he is continually being called out for his mistakes in front of the board instead of being privately confronted. The fact that a mistake has been made with the budget and taxes is on each tax bill and therefore isn't a private matter. It was brought to the attention of the tax payers in town. Coun. Raymond defended the board as well as the Supervisor and encourages us to work as a willing team. He thanked Coun. Wilbur for his diligence to find the error and the explanation.

Erin Perkins stated that we must have a strategy to go over the numbers so there are less mistakes made. Phillip Perrone asked a question to the Supervisor about with all the inconsistencies how can the money paid to the Budget Officer be justified. There was no response.

Mary Malo echoed the sentiment that the board must work together and be willing to get any help necessary to create fewer mistakes. The more eyes on the paperwork, the better it should turn out.

Christine Diekel agreed that we need to begin to work together so we can move forward for our little town.

A question was brought up about the Records Access Manager duties and how to utilize the position and the response was to wait for the town attorney to attend a future meeting to discuss it.

There were no further discussions and a motion to adjourn was unanimously passed at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Marcinda Wilbur Dresden Town Clerk.